

App. No. 09/846,877

Amendment

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 15, 19 and 23-29 are currently being amended, claims 1-14, 16-18 and 20-22 are currently being canceled without prejudice, and no claims are currently being added. Thus, claims 15, 19 and 23-29 are pending in the application.

Support for Claim Amendments

Claims 15, 19 and 23-29 are currently being amended without adding new matter. Specifically, support for the amendments to the claims can be found in Applicants' specification as follows:

For the amendments to claim 15: support for the "first means" is found at page 34, lines 8-11, and page 35, lines 14-21; support for the "second means" is found at page 34, lines 14-17, and page 39, lines 4-10; support for the "third means" is found at page 34, lines 11-14, and page 36, lines 20-25; support for the "fourth means" is found at page 34, line 25 to page 35, line 1, page 39, lines 21-24, and FIG. 16; support for the "fifth means" is found at page 34, line 25 to page 35, line 1, and page 39, lines 13-20.

For the amendments to claim 19: support is found at page 34, lines 20-25; and page 36, line 27 to page 37, line 14.

For the amendments to claim 23: support is found at page 21, line 24 to page 22, line 1; and page 46, line 12 to page 47, line 1.

For the amendments to claim 24: support is found at page 51, lines 18-25; and page 69, line 27 to page 70, line 2.

For the amendments to claim 25: support is found at page 61, lines 6-11.

For the amendments to claim 26: support is found at page

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61, lines 11-13.

For the amendments to claim 27: support is found at page 51, lines 6-8; and page 58, lines 10-17.

For the amendments to claim 28: support for the "first means" is found at page 34, lines 8-11, and page 35, lines 14-21; support for the "second means" is found at page 34, lines 14-17, and page 39, lines 4-10; support for the "third means" is found at page 34, lines 11-14, and page 36, lines 20-25; support for the "fourth means" is found at page 34, line 25 to page 35, line 1, page 39, lines 21-24, and FIG. 16; support for the "fifth means" is found at page 34, line 25 to page 35, line 1, and page 39, lines 13-20.

For the amendments to claim 29: support for the "first step" is found at page 34, lines 8-11, and page 35, lines 14-21; support for the "second step" is found at page 34, lines 14-17, and page 39, lines 4-10; support for the "third step" is found at page 34, lines 11-14, and page 36, lines 20-25; support for the "fourth step" is found at page 34, line 25 to page 35, line 1, and page 39, lines 21-24; support for the "fifth step" is found at page 34, line 25 to page 35, line 1, and page 39, lines 13-20.

Specification

The title of the invention has been objected to as allegedly not being descriptive. The title has been amended to be clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. This amendment is supported by Applicants' specification at page 34, line 20 to page 35, line 1. As such, this objection should be withdrawn.

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Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Examiner rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants have canceled claims 1-14 without prejudice in the above amendment. Therefore, this rejection is now moot.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8, 13-22 and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. JP 10328414 A to Yuichiro et al. ("Yuichiro et al."). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants have canceled claims 1-8, 13-14, 16-18 and 20-22 without prejudice in the above amendment. Therefore, this rejection is now moot with respect to those claims.

With respect to independent claims 15, 28 and 29, Applicants have amended these claims to overcome the rejection. The amendments are supported by the specification as described above.

By way of example, some of the features of an example embodiment of Applicants' system are as follows. When a simple pattern such as a single line is inputted, an image other than the simple pattern is displayed from an area where the simple pattern is drawn. If the drawn simple pattern satisfies a predetermined judging criterion, the displayed image is maintained. If the drawn simple pattern does not satisfy the judging criterion, the displayed image is changed to another image.

Such features are not disclosed or suggested in Yuichiro et al. Therefore, the rejections of amended independent claims 15, 28 and 29 should be withdrawn. Furthermore, the rejections of dependent claims 19 and 27 should be withdrawn for at least

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these same reasons due to their dependency on their independent claim.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 9-12 and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yuichiro et al. in view of PCT Publication No. WO 98/32107 to Padwa ("Padwa"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants have canceled claims 9-12 without prejudice in the above amendment. Therefore, this rejection is now moot with respect to those claims.

The rejections of dependent claims 23-26 should be withdrawn for at least these same reasons provided above for their respective independent claims.

Fees Believed to be Due

No extra claims fees are believed to be due.

Fees are included herewith for a petition for a one-month extension of time to respond.

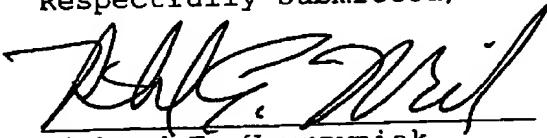
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CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the above amendments and remarks place the pending claims in a condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at (858) 552-1311 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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